

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, October 26, 1881, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Bell. Hotel Continental, Paris, Wednesday, October 26th, 1881. My sweet little wife:

I am so lonely here without one word from you — won't you send me a line dear just that I may feel you think of your poor husband sometimes — and won't you come here next week to see the Exhibition and spend a day or two at least with me all by ourselves. If so I will come up to London to bring you any time you say. I am making a thorough examination of the Exhibition — exhibit by exhibit.

I first spent a couple of days in looking over the Exhibition generally and in seeing a few of the more important and interesting inventions and now I am going into the matter in detail. The more I examine the more I see there is to examine. I have only now completed about one quarter of the floor space and have not yet touched the galleries. I make notes of the exhibits that take my fancy and I gather in wholesale all the circulars and explanatory pamphlets I can lay my hands upon and paste them into a scrap-book for future reference.

I find a large number of Electrical works for sale here. I propose to buy them all and have them bound here as a Memento of the Exhibition.

I think I better remain here by myself until I have completed my examination and then I will bring you here prepared to show you the chief points of the Exhibition which would interest you. I forget whether I told you about the French Academy and the attack made upon me by Mr. Hughes. The sympathy of the members of the 2 Academy seems to be with me as Mr. Hughes evidently did not understand the scope of my paper. I think Mr. Hughes has now got over what little feeling he had upon the subject — as I have made honorable mention of his name in the body of my paper instead of in a foot-note as at first.

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M. Dumas has sent a request to me by M. Antoine Brequet that I should present a communication to the Academy next Monday upon Radiophony as all the members are much interested in that subject.

I am hard at work trying to think of something new to say upon the matter. Of course it is supposed that I have continued my researches in that direction and no one imagines that we are now working in an entirely different field of investigation.

The Prince of Wales came to see my Exhibit to-day and I explained to him the American Central Office System — the operation of the Photophone and the operation of the Induction Balance. He seemed specially interested in the Induction Balance.

I am tired and can't write properly as I should have been in bed hours ago — so please don't criticise this letter. It is actually three o'clock in the morning.

I am engaged to dinner every night this week and also on Monday of next week. Hope to go on to London Tuesday and bring you right back with me.

Really cannot write any more. I want to put my head upon your shoulder and feel your arms about me — and rest.

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How are you dear — do write. Again I repeat do right!! There — a pun!

Good night.

Love, Your tired Alec. P. S. What a lame excuse the Captain of the Britannia has made and how the poor man has caught it from the “English Passenger.” I feel quite sorry for him. AGB. Mrs. A. G. Bell Leed.